

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR
JANICE K. BREWER



GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
2013-2014

APPLICATIONS MUST BE **RECEIVED** BY
FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2013 AT 3:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE 230
PHOENIX, ARIZONA, 85007
PHONE: (602) 542-3426 • FAX: (602) 542-3423
EMAIL: GYC@AZ.GOV

What is the Governor's Youth Commission?

PURPOSE

The Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) works to address issues that affect youth in Arizona which may result in making recommendations to the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families.

MISSION

The mission of the Governor's Youth Commission is to promote healthier communities through youth volunteerism and service learning and to increase awareness of community issues affecting youth.

MEMBERS, MEETINGS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Governor's Youth Commission is a diverse and representative body of Arizona's high school population, and is composed of members from different parts of the state. Each year, members work together on projects that impact youth across Arizona.

Quarterly meetings are held on Saturdays from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Each meeting may feature four different components:

- Trainings presented by expert instructors on vital leadership development skills
- Work on special projects and initiatives for the year
- Service projects related to the various challenges faced by youth in Arizona
- Reflection on past accomplishments and experiences

Commissioners are also required to work on committees as determined by the staff and members depending on the initiatives for the year.

Eligibility

The Governor's Youth Commission is currently accepting applications from high school students who will be sophomores or juniors during the 2013-2014 school year.

Please note that the GYC is seeking applicants who represent the diverse and unique nature of Arizona's communities. **This year will be very competitive. We are only appointing approximately 10 new members and priority will be given to those applicants in rural communities.**

Agreements

Being a commissioner requires a high degree of commitment. Before applying, please make sure that you are able to dedicate a sufficient amount of time to the GYC.

Commissioners:

- Attend four meetings a year held primarily at the State Capitol.
- Contribute to the planning and execution of the GYC's projects and initiatives.
- Actively participate in committee meetings and conference calls.
- Participate in service projects.
- Check their e-mail on a daily basis.
- Provide their own transportation to and from meetings.
- Serve as a role model and adhere to a high code of conduct.
- Serve as a liaison to other youth.

In addition to the above requirements, each Commissioner must also have an adult mentor or advisor who can help and support as needed. Mentors or advisors can include a teacher, counselor, youth group leader, or parent. During the school year, there may be opportunities for Commissioners and their mentors to attend an event together.

What are some of the GYC's accomplishments?

In the past, the Governor's Youth Commissioners:

- Encouraged over 3,000 youth to lead and participate in 60 different service projects from across the state for Global Youth Service Day (GYSD).
- Created a website www.youthservingarizona.org to showcase their service projects, list resources and allow the public to access registration forms.
- Produced a PSA to encourage youth groups to register their community based service projects for Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), April 26 -28, 2013.
- Developed a Youth Track in conjunction with the Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Service-Learning. Nearly 40 youth groups and high schools from across the state engaged in workshops to inspire and motivate them to lead community based service projects.
- Hosted the 6th annual Youth Leadership Day (YLD), an event attended by nearly 200 youth representing over 30 different youth organizations. YLD is an opportunity for youth across the state to attend a variety of leadership development workshops, network with their peers and celebrate their accomplishments of GYSD.
- Planned and hosted a GYSD day of training at Phoenix College Downtown. The event drew almost 100 participants from statewide municipal youth advisory groups and school groups. Workshops focused on encouraging all youth groups to develop and implement service-learning projects to improve Arizona communities.
- Wrote and produced a PSA in partnership with Kaity's Way and Mesa Public Education TV to raise awareness of teen dating violence.
- Awarded the 2008 Youth Education & Enforcement – Outstanding Enforcement award from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and Mother's Against Drunk Driving.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A COMMISSIONER?

Youth Voice

Andrea Lin, Chandler

“Ultimately, I believe that being part of the GYC has offered me an entirely new perspective on what truly happens behind the scenes for achieving the dream of impacting all the youth of Arizona. It's being a part of the GYC team that has given me the opportunity to work with others and allowed me to use my voice to speak out for those who cannot and spread the passion for community service. The GYC has inspired me and lent me the ability to make a difference.”

Service Work

Alexa Christensen, Tucson

“Being a member of the GYC allows me to take my passion for service to the next level as I participate in service projects that have an effect over my community and the entire state of Arizona. Working together with the people involved in GYC has enhanced my leadership and problem solving skills, while allowing me to be part of a tight-knit community of students who have the same interest in service as I do.”

Community Outreach

Jimmy Xu, Gilbert

"Being part of the GYC has truly shown me the power of a small, dedicated group of individuals. With each commissioner bringing an incredible range of skills and talents, the GYC consistently uses this potential to provide outreach at a range I had previously not thought possible. To anyone wanting to bring change and improvement to the community—the opportunities that come with being a commissioner are unmatched. The GYC is, unequivocally, one of the best ways for youth to express themselves and make a difference.

Networking Opportunities

Gunner Hardy, Young

"I have been lucky enough to learn so many amazing skills such as, the ability to engage a group for a common purpose, public speaking, finding my passion, and the ability to get out of my shell and meet new people and experience their stories. The GYC has also opened me up to new experiences. I can now say that I have made a difference in my community."

Changing Arizona

Alexis Salter, San Carlos

“The Governor’s Youth Commission gave me the tools to become a better volunteer and better leader and ultimately a better member of my community, the San Carlos Apache Tribe. The leadership training and the opportunity to give to people through volunteer activities are unique and valuable experiences offered by this program. I am humbled to be a part of this commission that, in my opinion, is an example of how the great state of Arizona honors the voices of the youth.”

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Application Process

The GYC recruitment process consists of an application and interview. All youth who are eligible to apply must follow the application instructions below. Finalists will be invited to interview on June 6th or 7th. Decisions are tentatively scheduled to be made by June 10th.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

A complete application consists of:

- Membership Application: Personal Information (Page 6).
- Completed Questionnaire (Page 7).
- Resume detailing current and past community and school involvement (limit to one page).
- Two (2) letters of recommendation. One letter **MUST** be from a teacher, faculty member or youth group leader. The second letter **MUST** be from your mentor, which can include a teacher, counselor, youth group leader, or parent.

Applications should not be in a binder, report cover or folder. Please use a paper clip or a binder clip to hold your application together.

Complete applications can be mailed, emailed, faxed or delivered in person to:

Carla Friedman
Youth Program Development Director
Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families
State Capitol, Executive Tower
1700 West Washington Street, Suite 230
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Email: GYC@az.gov
Phone: (602) 542-3426
Fax: (602) 542-3423

Applications MUST be RECEIVED by Friday, May 10, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.
(Please call or email to confirm that we have received your application.)

If you require any additional information please contact Carla Friedman at (602) 542-3426, or through e-mail at GYC@az.gov.

Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families
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Membership Application: Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____

Zip: _____ Ethnicity (optional): _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Birthday: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name(s): _____

Your grade during the 2013-2014 school year? _____

School's Name: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Principal's Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Adult Advisor/Mentor Information (one letter of recommendation must be from this individual)

Name: _____

Position: _____

How is this person related/associated with you? _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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Questionnaire

Part I

The first meeting that new GYC members will be required to attend is tentatively scheduled for July 11th-12th. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.** Please confirm that you will be able to attend this meeting. If you cannot attend, please state the reason(s) why.

Part II

Please respond to the following questions. Your answers must be typed, double-spaced and in 12 point font. Please DO NOT include any additional information (newspaper articles, photographs, etc.).

1. What interests you about becoming a GYC member?
2. What can you contribute as a member of the GYC? How will your background or experiences add to our mission?
3. Describe in detail a time during your life when you overcame significant adversity in a team environment (i.e. school work group, in a club, etc.).
4. What other school or community activities and organizations will you be involved with during the 2013 – 2014 school year?
5. What do you think is the most critical issue facing youth in Arizona today and what kinds of activities would you suggest to help address this issue?

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**Governor's Youth Commission
Application for 2013-2014
Signature Page**

GYC Applicant

If selected to serve on the Governor's Youth Commission for the 2013-2014 year, I am fully aware of the Agreements of Membership and will abide by these Agreements at all times. I am also aware that my participation as a member of the GYC is an important commitment for which I will devote significant time and energy.

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian

I hereby provide my consent for my child to serve, if selected, as a member of the Governor's Youth Commission for the 2013-2014 year. I understand that this is an important commitment and I will support my youth's full participation in the Commission.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Adult Advisor/Mentor

As mentor, I hereby pledge to guide and support the abovementioned youth's full participation, if selected, as a member of the Governor's Youth Commission for the 2013-2014 year.

Mentor Signature

Date